

# HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

## Priority Problem Justification

### Lack of Mental Health Service:

As the preceding list revealed four of the top ten health concerns focused on mental health issues in Crockett County. Rather than addressing each of these issues individually, the council chose to group these issues into one category identified as Mental Health Services. The following issues were included: Lack of Mental Health Services, Teen Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use; Adult Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use; Child Abuse/Neglect.

From the beginning lack of mental health services has been a large concern for the council. Currently services are not available within the county, therefore the citizens with mental health issues they have to travel out of the county for care. The council was concerned that many of their residents might be unable to get the help they need.

According to information obtained through Pathways of Tennessee and the Jackson Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (JACO), there are 273 Crockett County residents receiving services throughout the West Tennessee Region. Approximately 50 residents are receiving services at Carey Counseling Center in Trenton, Tennessee. The Department of Children's Services CETAC grant for children and families with physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect issues is also located out of the county. There are currently 7 open cases for CETAC. There have been a reported 14 residents that have completed the JACO DUI school since January 1, 1997 in Jackson, Tennessee.

### Teen Alcohol, Drug, Tobacco Abuse:

Crockett County High School did not participate in the Tennessee High School (Grade 9-12) Survey of 1996, therefore the council reviewed comparisons based on the survey percentages collected from the northwest region participants (Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Weakley) as well as state percentages. Using population estimates for 1997 there are approximately 720 students enrolled in Crockett County High School. The following is an example of the information reviewed by the council, a complete comparison is available through the Community Development Staff.

#### Ever smoked cigarettes (once to daily use)

Northwest = 64.5%  
State = 61.8%  
Crockett Co. = 464 Students

#### Ever used Alcohol

Northwest = 70.7%  
State = 68.2%  
Crockett Co. = 509

#### Ever used Marijuana (Pot)

Northwest = 31.1%  
State = 35.9%  
Crockett Co. = 224

#### Ever used Cocaine/Crack

Northwest = 5.4%  
State = 6.3%  
Crockett Co. = 39

#### Bought Drugs at School

Northwest = 14.8%  
State = 17.9%  
Crockett Co. = 107

#### Offered or Given Drugs at School

Northwest = 39.5%  
State = 42.9%  
Crockett Co. = 284